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Area Wage Survey
Asheville, NC
March 1989

U.S. Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Summary
April 1989

This summary presents results of a March 1989 survey of occupational wages in the Asheville Metropolitan Statistical Area, which consists of Buncombe County. This is 1 of over 100 areas which the Bureau of Labor Statistics surveys annually or every other year at the request of the Employment Standards Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor for use in administering the Service Contract Act of 1965. In addition, the Bureau conducts more extensive studies of occupational wages and related benefits in 90 other areas throughout the United States. For information on these reports and other Bureau publications, contact any BLS regional office identified on the back page.

This study covered establishments employing 50 workers or more in manufacturing; transportation, communication, and other public utilities; wholesale trade; retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; and selected services. A sample of 71 establishments employing 18,380 workers was selected to represent 161 establishments employing 29,596 workers in the area. Data collected in the sample of establishments were projected to represent all establishments within the scope of the survey.

Table 1 provides hourly earnings information on office and plant workers employed in selected occupations common to a variety of industries. Occupational classification was based on a uniform set of job descriptions designed to take account of variations in job duties among establishments. The job descriptions used in the survey are available on request. (See table 2 for further information on the scope of the survey.)

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Table 1. Hourly earnings[1] of selected occupations in Asheville, NC, March 1989

Occupation[2]	Number of workers	Hourly earnings (in dollars)[1]			Number of workers receiving straight-time hourly earnings (in dollars) of —																					
		Mean	Median	Middle range	3.35 and under 3.50	3.50 – 4.00	4.00 – 4.50	4.50 – 5.00	5.00 – 5.50	5.50 – 6.00	6.00 – 6.50	6.50 – 7.00	7.00 – 7.50	7.50 – 8.00	8.00 – 8.50	8.50 – 9.00	9.00 – 9.50	9.50 – 10.00	10.00 – 10.50	10.50 – 11.00	11.00 – 11.50	11.50 – 12.00	12.00 – 13.00	13.00 – 14.00	14.00 – 15.00	15.00 – 16.00	16.00 – 17.00
Secretaries	56	8.94	8.69	7.46- 9.99	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	6	4	5	4	8	7	4	4	3	3	1	-	1	-	1	1
Secretaries I	27	7.43	7.40	6.64- 8.08	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	6	4	5	4	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Secretaries II	11	9.54	9.56	- -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Secretaries III	15	10.62	9.62	9.38-10.93	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	2	1	3	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
Key entry operators	38	6.72	6.68	6.22- 6.88	-	-	-	-	3	3	8	16	2	1	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Key entry operators I	38	6.72	6.68	6.22- 6.88	-	-	-	-	3	3	8	16	2	1	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Receptionists	6	5.99	5.50	- -	-	-	-	1	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Switchboard operators	30	5.78	5.10	5.00- 6.00	-	-	-	1	20	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Computer operators	12	9.38	9.10	- -	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	1	2	-	2	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
Computer operators II	8	9.54	9.79	- -	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
Electronics technicians	79	14.18	15.16	13.54-15.16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	3	-	-	1	-	6	13	4	49	-
Electronics technicians II	71	14.54	15.16	13.54-15.16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	4	13	4	48	-
Maintenance carpenters	12	11.66	12.40	- -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	8	-	-	-	-
Maintenance electricians	130	11.25	10.22	10.04-13.14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	7	18	3	36	1	9	5	2	41	4	2	-
Maintenance painters	6	8.42	8.80	- -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maintenance machinists	34	12.06	11.90	10.67-13.80	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	8	2	5	-	15	-	-	-
Maintenance mechanics (machinery)	241	10.09	10.00	8.73-11.56	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	61	33	4	23	25	12	17	20	24	1	-	-	-
Motor vehicle mechanics	38	11.54	11.02	10.00-14.60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	1	-	3	1	6	2	6	-	2	1	8	4	-
General maintenance workers	97	7.42	7.20	6.30- 8.75	-	-	-	-	14	-	12	7	22	10	5	3	16	3	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tool and die makers	59	13.67	14.25	13.08-14.25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	6	6	1	42	1	1
Stationary engineers	10	11.11	11.03	- -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	3	-	-	-	-
Truckdrivers	232	11.13	10.36	8.36-14.74	-	-	4	-	4	9	1	3	1	7	30	1	-	-	83	-	9	-	-	-	62	18	-
Truckdrivers, light truck	13	5.89	5.25	- -	-	-	4	-	4	-	-	-	-	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Truckdrivers, tractor-trailer	93	11.15	10.36	10.00-10.36	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	71	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	-
Shipping packers	36	5.83	5.66	5.00- 6.58	-	-	4	-	10	10	3	3	1	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Material handling laborers	151	6.31	6.29	4.85- 8.59	16	4	8	16	-	18	24	13	2	8	-	42	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Forklift operators	403	7.25	6.55	6.00- 9.11	-	-	-	-	4	21	156	58	21	28	1	-	90	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Guards																											
Guards I	157	5.10	4.25	3.90- 5.50	-	49	32	14	10	26	4	2	3	1	1	3	-	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Janitors, porters, and cleaners	135	6.05	6.29	4.25- 7.39	-	4	44	4	7	8	7	1	30	12	4	10	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

[1] Excludes premium pay for overtime and for work on weekends, holidays, and late shifts. Also excluded are performance bonuses and lump-sum payments of the type negotiated in the auto and aerospace industries, as well as profit-sharing payments, attendance bonuses, Christmas or year-end bonuses, and other nonproduction bonuses. Pay increases—but not bonuses—under cost-of-living allowance clauses and incentive payments, however, are included. Hourly earnings reported for salaried workers are derived from regular salaries divided by the corresponding standard hours of work. The wages of learners, apprentices, and handicapped workers are excluded. The mean is computed for each job by totaling the earnings of all workers and dividing by the number of workers. The median designates position—one-half of the workers receive the same as or more than this rate and one-half receive the same as or less than this rate. The middle range is defined by two rates of pay; one-fourth of the workers earn the same as or less than the lower of these rates and one-fourth earn the same as or more than the higher rate. Middle ranges are not provided when fewer than 15 workers are reported.

[2] For occupations with more than one level, data are included in the overall classification when a subclassification is not shown or information to subclassify is not available.

Table 2. Establishments and workers within scope of survey and number studied in Asheville, NC,[1] March 1989

Industry division[2]	Minimum employment in establishments in scope of survey	Number of establishments		Workers in establishments		
		Within scope of survey[3]	Studied	Within scope of survey[4]		Studied
				Number	Percent	
All divisions	50	161	71	29,596	100	18,380
Manufacturing	50	68	35	17,883	60	11,456
Nonmanufacturing[5]	50	93	36	11,713	40	6,924

[1] The Asheville Metropolitan Statistical Area, as defined by the Office of Management and Budget through October 1984, consists of Buncombe County. The "workers within scope of survey" estimates shown in this table provide a reasonably accurate description of the size and composition of the labor force included in the survey. The estimates are not intended, however, to serve as a basis for comparison with other statistical series to measure employment trends or levels since (1) planning of wage surveys requires the use of establishment data compiled considerably in advance of the payroll period studied, and (2) small establishments are excluded from the scope of the survey.

[2] The 1972 edition of the *Standard Industrial Classification Manual* was used to classify establishments by industry division. All government operations are excluded from the scope of the survey.

[3] Includes all establishments with total employment at or above the minimum limitation. All outlets (within a metropolitan area or nonmetropolitan county) of nonmanufacturing companies are considered as one establishment when located within the same industry division.

[4] Includes all workers in all establishments with total employment (within the area) at or above the minimum limitation.

[5] Includes transportation, communication, and other public utilities (excluding taxicabs and services incidental to water transportation); wholesale trade; retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; hotels and other lodging places; personal services; business services; automotive repair services and garages; motion pictures; membership organizations (excluding religious organizations); and miscellaneous services. Major industries excluded from this survey are agriculture; mining; construction; and some services (notably educational institutions and medical services).

Area Wage Survey Summaries

The following areas are surveyed periodically under contract to the Employment Standards Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor for its use in administering the Service Contract Act of 1965. These more limited surveys supplement the Bureau's area wage survey program listed on the inside back cover of this bulletin. Reports on the surveys shown below are available at no cost from any of the Bureau's regional offices while supplies last.

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Augusta, GA-SC[1]
Bakersfield, CA
Baton Rouge, LA
Battle Creek, MI
Beaumont-Port Arthur and Lake Charles, TX-LA
Biloxi-Gulfport and Pascagoula, MS
Binghamton, NY
Birmingham, AL
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[1] In 1989, this area is scheduled to be surveyed under the Bureau's regular area wage survey program.

[2] Scheduled to be surveyed in this program for the first time in 1989. In 1986, the area was surveyed under the Bureau's regular area wage survey program.

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U.S. Department of Labor
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Bulletin 2309

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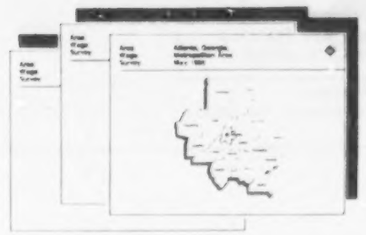

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